

# KOREA



*We accuse!*

Report of the Commission of the Women's International  
Democratic Federation in Korea, May 16 to 27, 1951



## **The Delegation**



*Womens International Commission for the investigation of war atrocities  
committed in Korea*

*Standing left to right:*

*Eva Priester, Austria; Ilyana Dimitreva, interpreter USSR, Lala Flerovskaya,  
interpreter USSR; Kate Fleron, Danemark; Abassia Fodil, Algeria; Hilda  
Cahn, German Democratic Republic, Li K'eng, China; Germaine Hannevard,  
Belgium; Candelaria Rodriguez, Cuba; Bai Lang, China; Trees Soenito-  
Heyligers, Netherlands; Elizabeth Gallo, Italy; Miluse Svatosova, Czecho-  
slovakia;*

*Seated left to right:*

*Lilly Waechter, West Germany; Gillette Ziegler, France; Maria Ossyanni-  
kova, USSR; Li-thi-Quê, Viet Nam; Nora Rodd, Canada, Chairman of the  
Commission; Pak Den Ai, Korea; Lui Chin Yang, China; Monica Felton,  
England; Fatma Ben Sliman, Tunisia.*

## Introduction

*The Women's International Democratic Federation presents to the people of the world this document prepared by the International Women's Commission to Korea, which has made a thorough on the spot investigation of the monstrous crimes committed by the American interventionist troops and their "UN" allies in Korea.*

*The WIDF took the initiative of organising this Commission acting upon the proposal of the Korean Women's Democratic Union. The Commission consisted of women representatives of divergent opinions and beliefs from Africa, Asia, America and Europe. They went to Korea to bring to the peoples of the world the true picture of the terrible war that has been brought upon the Korean people by the government of the United States.*

*The WIDF expresses its appreciation of the tasks accomplished by the delegation in such a short time and under very difficult conditions.*

*Every page of this document is a grim indictment. Every fact speaks of the mass exterminating character of this war. More homes have been destroyed than military objectives, more grain than ammunition, more women, children and aged than soldiers. This war is war on life itself.*

*The Commission has rightly demanded that the main responsibility of the Korean war and the atrocities committed, be laid on the US government and "that those responsible for the crimes committed must be charged as war criminals as defined by the Allied Declaration of 1943 and must be brought to trial by the peoples of the world".*

*We call upon the women and mothers, to make this document known to every home, factory, field — to every man and woman of goodwill. It is the voice of the tortured and heroic mothers of Korea. It is the voice of peace itself. No human being can remain untouched or indifferent to these burning facts. It is a crime to remain silent when inhuman atrocities are committed against people.*

*We especially call upon women and mothers of the USA, Great Britain, and other countries of the world whose governments have sent troops to Korea to intensify their efforts to get their sons and husbands out of Korea. Here are the facts. The responsibility is yours. ACT NOW.*



*The investigation of the Commission shows what war means to the civilian population particularly to women and children. The urgency of ending the Korean war is not only for the sake of saving the Korean people but also for our own very survival. If we continue to let this war of mass destruction to go on in Korea, it will spread to all parts of the world and what is happening in Korea will be repeated elsewhere. By saving the mothers and children of Korea we save our own families.*

*We call upon all women who cherish peace and the security of their children, to spare no effort, time or energy to ensure: that all foreign troops be withdrawn from Korean soil; a peaceful settlement of the Korean question; that the Koreans be allowed to conduct their own affairs; and that a Peace Pact be signed among the Five Great Powers which alone can insure a lasting solution of the Korean war and of world peace.*

*Korea needs help. Every living being there is exposed to starvation and cold. We must bring them the warmth of our mothers' heart in the form of continuous and systematic relief from all parts of the world. Let us strengthen the solidarity campaign for Korean women and children already launched by the WIDF.*

*The WIDF and the members of the International Women's Commission bear witness to the profound suffering and special humiliation visited upon the Korean women, and to their legendary heroism. Their feats of patriotism, toil and endurance have won our deepest affection and gratitude*

*We pledge to them and to ourselves in the name of 91 million women that we will not rest until the torturers leave Korean soil.*

**Women's International Democratic Federation**

# REPORT

of the Women's International Commission for the Investigation of  
atrocities committed by U.S.A.  
and Syngman Rhee troops in Korea

**H**aving received the invitation of the Women's International Democratic Federation, we have been delegated by different Women's Organisations—some of them members of WIDF and some not—to join an international Women's Commission to investigate the atrocities committed by American and Syngman Rhee troops in Korea. We represent seventeen countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

The members of the Commission are:

Nora K. Rodd (Canada), Chairman;  
Liu Chin-yang (China), Vice-chairman;  
Ida Bachmann (Denmark), Vice-chairman;  
Miluse Svatosova (Czechoslovakia), Secretary;  
Trees Soenito-Heyligers (Netherlands);  
Assistant Secretary:  
Dr. Monica Felton (Great Britain);  
Maria Ovsyannikova (USSR);  
Bai Lang (China);  
Li K'eng (China);  
Gilette Ziegler (France);  
Elisabeth Gallo (Italy);  
Eva Priester (Austria);  
Hilde Cahn (German Democratic Republic);  
Lilly Waechter (Western Germany);  
Dr. Germaine Hannevard (Belgium);  
Li-thi-Quê (Viet-Nam);  
Candelaria Rodriguez, Doctor-in-Law (Cuba);  
Leonor Aguiar Vazquez, Doctor-in-Law (Argentine);  
Fatma ben Sliman (Tunisia);  
Abassia Fodil (Algeria);  
Kate Fleron Jacobsen, Observer (Denmark).

We, women of different countries, of different nationalities, of different religious beliefs and different political views, some of us members of different political parties and others with no party affiliations, had a common task before us: to tell conscientiously and truthfully to the women who have delegated us to this commission and to all the common and peace-loving people of the world the facts as we have seen them. All the facts given below, the figures and other data, mentioned in this document, have been recorded personally by the members of the Commission. These facts are all in accordance with the evidence members saw with their own eyes and with statements given to them by eye-witnesses and officials in Korea.

The report itself was completed and signed in the time of May 16 to May 27 on Korean territory, somewhere near Phyöngyang.

## Declaration

After the observations made by the members of the Commission in different parts of Korea, the Commission has reached the following conclusions:

The people of Korea are subjected by American occupants to a merciless and methodical campaign of extermination which is in contradiction not only with the principles of humanity, but also with the rules of warfare as laid down, for instance, in the Hague and the Geneva Conventions. This is being done in the following ways:

a) by the systematic destruction of food, food-stores and food-factories. Forests and ripe harvests are systematically burned by incendiary bombs, fruit trees are destroyed and peasants working in their fields with their animals are killed by machine-gun fire from low-flying planes. By these means the whole people of Korea is doomed to starvation.

b) By the systematic destruction of town after town, of village after village, many of which by no stretch of imagination could be considered to be military objectives or even industrial centres. The aim of this systematic destruction is clearly, in the first place, to break the morale of the Korean population and, secondly, to wear them out physically. In these never-ceasing raids, dwellings, hospitals, schools, etc., are destroyed deliberately. Even towns which have already been turned into heaps of ashes and in which the surviving inhabitants are reduced to living in dug-outs, continue to be bombed.

c) By systematically employing against the peaceful inhabitants weapons banned by international convention i.e., incendiaries, petrol bombs, napalm bombs, time-bombs, and by constantly machine-gunning civilians from low-flying planes.

d) By atrociously exterminating the Korean population. In the districts temporarily occupied by American and Syngman Rhee forces, in the period of occupation hundreds of thousands of civilians, entire families from old men to little children, have been tortured, beaten to death, burned and buried alive. Thousands of others have perished from hunger and cold in overcrowded prisons in which they were thrown without charges being levelled against them, without investigation, trial or sentence.

These mass tortures and mass murders surpass the crimes committed by Hitler nazis in temporarily occupied Europe.

Evidence given by all civilians questioned points to the fact that nearly all these crimes were either perpetrated by US soldiers and officers or else on the order of US officers. Therefore the full responsibility for these atrocities falls on the US Supreme Command in Korea, i.e., General MacArthur, General Ridgeway and other commanders of the

invading forces who call themselves the Forces of the UNO. Although these atrocities have been performed under the command of Generals in the field, the full responsibility for them must also rest with the governments who sent their troops to Korea and whose representatives at the UNO gave their votes in favour of the war in Korea.

The Commission expresses its belief that those responsible for the crimes committed against the Korean people must be charged as war criminals as defined by the Allied Declaration of 1943 and must be brought to trial by the peoples of the world, as was defined by the same Declaration.

The Commission calls on all the peoples of the world in the name of common humanity to urge by every means in their power that the war in Korea be brought to an end without delay and that the invading foreign troops be immediately withdrawn from Korea.

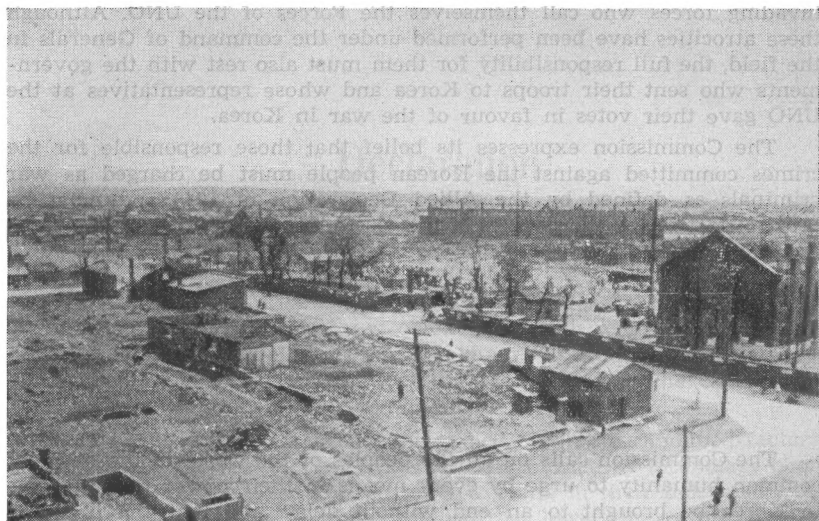
The Commission also urges all the peoples of the world to organize immediate help for the Korean people, who are threatened by hunger and disease as a result of the atrocious crimes committed by the American invading forces on Korean territory.

The Commission asks the Women's International Democratic Federation to send this document to the Governments of all the countries of the world, to all women's organization throughout the world, irrespective of whether they are members of the Federation or not, to the World Peace Council, to all organizations fighting for peace, to all humanitarian organizations, and public leaders, regardless of their political or religious views, who hold dear the cause of peace.

The Commission urgently asks the WIDF to forward the report of the Women's International Commission for the investigation of the atrocities committed by USA and Syngman Rhee forces in Korea, to the United Nations Organization.

Signed in Korea by all delegates. May 27, 1951.





*SINYJU — May 16, 1951 — looking down over the ruined city from the shell of the town's Cultural Center. Large school and church in the background. In immediate foreground the completely destroyed market area where 2,000 were killed by bombs*

## CHAPTER I

The Commission visited Sinyju, a town on the Korea-Chinese border. This city has been almost completely destroyed. All the buildings which remain are badly shattered. The town has been bombed many times, but most of the damage was done in three raids of the night of 8th of November 1950 and of November 10th and 11th. On the day on which the Commission visited Sinyju there were three alerts.

According to official statements by representatives of the Sinyju City People's Committee, Sinyju on July 1950 had 126,000 inhabitants living and working in 14,000 buildings. The Commission was informed that the town had no industries that contributed in any way to war production. It had only light industries: the processing of soya, tofa (a product of soya), the manufacture of shoes, matches, salt and chopsticks. On November 8th, 1950, the town was bombed by 100 aeroplanes attached to the so-called UNO Forces in Korea. On this occasion 2,100 state and municipal buildings were destroyed out of a total of 3,017; out of more than 11,000 dwellings, 6,800 were destroyed. More than 5,000 inhabitants were killed, of whom approximately 4,000 were women and children. Of 17 primary schools, 16 were destroyed, and 12 of the town's 19 secondary schools were also destroyed by incendiaries. Of 17 churches of different denominations only two were left. Two municipal hospitals were destroyed by incendiary



*Church at Phŏngyang*

bombs, although each of them was marked on the roof with a large red cross in accordance with the provisions of International Convention. Members of the Commissions saw the remains of these crosses on what was left of the roofs. In one hospital 26 patients were burned to death by flames from incendiary bombs.

The Commission was told that when the large Protestant church received a direct hit 250 people were killed. Among other episodes the commission was told of 30 mothers and children who were killed while trying to seek shelter after the bombing of a municipal canteen. In the densely populated market district, 2,500 people were killed and wounded. The total number of wounded in Sinyju on November 8th was 3,155. Members of the Commission examined remains of bombs which were being dug out from the debris and noted the following marking: Amm. Lot RN 14-29 shell MJ For M2 a MFL1 Lot-GL-2-116 1944 MJBCA 2 ACT 464.

The overwhelming majority of the inhabitants live in dug-outs made of earth supported with salvaged timber. Some of these dug-outs have

roofs made of tiles and timber, salvaged from destroyed buildings. Others are living in cellars that remained after the bombardment and still others in thatched tents within the frame-work of destroyed buildings and in huts made of unmortared brick and rubble. Some members of the Commission visited one of these huts, which was inhabited by the family of Kwon Mun-Su. The family consisted of mother, father and three small children. The hut was divided into two sections, one for living and sleeping and the other for cooking; the living quarters measured 3 by 2 meters, the cooking space was 1½ meters by 3 meters. The members of the family were considered lucky by their neighbours, both because of the amount of space they had and because they owned a blanket.

Evidence received indicated that the three biggest raids consisted chiefly of many incendiary bombs; and the Commission members could not at first understand why the damage had been so extensive. Enquiries both from municipal officials and from members of the public services who met in casual conversation showed the reason. Everybody who was interviewed stated that when the first wave of incendiary bombs had been dropped those who went out into the street to attempt to put out the fires were systematically machine-gunned by low-flying aircraft.

The almost wholesale burning of the town was caused by the systematic machine-gunning of civilians who were attempting to put out the fires.

A woman of the town, Chang Yun-Cha, stated that her father and her husband were killed by machine-gun fire from low-flying aircraft when they attempted to fetch water in order to extinguish the fires in their house, which was set aflame by incendiary bombs. Another woman Kim-In-Tan said that she had lost her three grandchildren and her daughter in the raid of November 8th. The children were killed by machine-gun fire from low-flying planes while running from their burning homes. The daughter was shot after having dragged her youngest child from the fire. Kim Hon-Yun states that his wife was killed by machine-gun fire while running out of her house set on fire by incendiary bombs.

In the course of the Journey from Sinyju to Phyöngyang the Commission observed that the towns and villages through which they passed were all completely or almost completely destroyed. The towns were Namshi, Chengchu, Anju, Sukchen and Sunan. The ruined villages were too numerous to be listed. The above was signed by all delegates on May 18th, 1951.



*Phyōngyang*

*Foreground, modern office buildings in ruins*

*Background, churches, shopping area and residential district*

## CHAPTER II

The Commission visited Phyöngyang, the temporary capital of the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

Before the war, Phyöngyang had a population of 400,000. There were very many large modern buildings built of brick and reinforced concrete. There were also many blocks of modern flats which, as can be seen from the remains, were fully equipped with modern methods of heating and sanitation.

The town had also a large number of factories. The main industries were the manufacture of textiles, shoes, various food products, tobacco, wine, beer and fertilizers.

Among its chief buildings Phyöngyang possessed an Opera house, nine theatres, 20 cinemas, a modern university, which had been build and equipped after 1945; 73 primary schools, twenty secondary schools, six institutes of higher education and four technical colleges. There were also twenty evening schools for adults and a large Polytechnical institute, which was almost completed when the war broke out.

The town is now a total ruin. Most of the older parts are razed to the ground, but here and there only walls of the destroyed houses are standing out against a mass of ash and rubble. Some of the modern buildings still stand in skeleton form, roofless and without internal walls; others have no more than a few fragmentary walls to indicate where the



*Phyöngyang*

*"Reserved for 77th F.A"*

*Commission: Nora Rodd, Monica Felton and Kate Fleron*



buildings once stood. In addition to the buildings listed above, many churches were destroyed, and all of the city hospitals. Members of the Commission examined ruins of the city's largest primary School. On one of the external walls was chalked the inscription "Reserved for 77th Field Artillery". Eighty per cent of the city was, according to evidence given to the commission, destroyed as the Americans left the city (it is important to note that the Americans evacuated without fighting and destroyed the city systematically and according to plan). The destruction is now virtually 100 per cent. But in spite of this, bombing still continues. On the occasion when the Commission spent a whole day in the city there were five alerts, and in the course of the same day, three time-bombs, which were dropped about a week earlier, exploded at intervals of 10 minutes within a short distance of the place where members were talking to representatives of local organizations.

Members were able to learn something about the methods by which the city has been destroyed. They were told that the town had been raided ever since the beginning of the war. The worst of these raids took place on January 3rd, 1951. On this occasion the town was bombed by 80 American B-29's. They came in a series of waves, at intervals of 15 or twenty minutes, starting on the evening of the 3rd and continuing till noon of the following day. The attack began with incendiaries. Next came a series of bombs which were described as being like balloons filled with petrol. Then followed a wave of high explosives and after that came another series of incendiaries interspersed with time-bombs. The fires caused by the incendiaries and the explosions caused by the time bombs prevented the inhabitants from doing any systematic rescue work and



*Church and School at Phyöngyang*

countless people who were buried alive ultimately died of suffocation. Many of the bodies have still not been disinterred.

Amongst the buildings destroyed on January 3rd and 4th were most of the hospitals of the city. These hospitals had flat roofs and each was marked with a large red cross which was estimated to be visible from a height of 6.000 to 8.000 meters. Every one of these hospitals received at least one direct hit. Members of the Commission saw the remains of the Regional Hospital and examined three large craters, two of them measuring approximately four meters in dept and one of seven meters in dept. The City's Central Hospital was said to have been destroyed by dive-bombers which came down to a height of 30 meters.

It has already been stated not all buildings of the city were destroyed by bombing. In fact, many of them were blown up by explosive charges, or set on fire when the American troops retreated. Among the buildings destroyed in this way were the Kim Ir Sen University, boy's secondary school; the Opera House; municipal institutions; most of the food-factories and all government institutions. The Commission was also informed that when the U.S. troops left the city, they set fire systematically to all of the city's tram cars. It was said that they also blew up several bridges and the main water system.

Just outside the city, members of the Commission saw the ruins of the famous temple of Buddha, Yen Myen Sa, which stands at the top of a hill overlooking a wide sweep of the river. This temple, which has been an object of veneration to the Korea people for twenty centuries, was also destroyed by bombing; and, judging by the situation of the temple, which is in open parkland, it is difficult to believe that the bombers could have been aiming at any other objective. According to the testimony of eyewitnesses, the temple was intact when the American troops retreated from Phöngyang in December 1950. On January 3rd, 1951, however, American aircraft dropped on the temple a large number of high-explosive and incendiary bombs and containers filled with an incendiary agent.

Members also visited the city's celebrated museum, which, though it escaped destruction, had been robbed of its treasures, including two famous statues of Buddha, both of which are more than two thousand years old. Mr. Ri Ye-Seng, the eminent archaeologist, showed members a long list of the articles pillaged. He showed them also that all the Americans left in the Museum were the hand colored copies of priceless frescoes which had been discovered in thirty ancient tombs of North Korea. Six of these tombs were used for torturing Korean women and the frescoes were destroyed when the tombs were blown up by hand grenades.

The Commission was repeatedly told of instances of the machine-gunning of civilians from the air. (They themselves in the middle of open country were forced to take refuge in a ditch from low-flying aircraft that were spraying machine-gun fire into open fields where peasants were at work. This occurred several hundred kilometres from the front, and a long way from any town or military objective). Walking through the debris of Phöngyang, members found many used shells from aircraft machine-guns lying among the wreckage of buildings. They also found evidence of the use of new destructive weapons. One of these is a bomb,



*Phyöngyang*  
*At the ruined temple of Mo-Ran*

which, when it reaches the ground or comes into contact with a building, opens without exploding. In opening, it throws out a mass of some substance which sticks to brick, wood or any other materials with which it happens to come into contact and which, as soon as it is struck by sunlight bursts into flames and will then set a whole building on fire.

Reference has already been made to the use of petrol-balloons. Members of the Commission inspected the remains of one such missile. It was about 3 meters long, 1 meter broad, and tapered in height from 50 cm. at its narrowest point to 1 meter at its widest. The marks on the balloon examined were only partly legible. The legible markings were: PA RA

contract HOAF 33/5077-40 — Oa N 4 888. The members were informed that, apart from the use of bombs of this type in Phyöngyang and other cities, the same weapon had been used last year during the harvest season to destroy the ripened crops lying in the fields, and that immense damage was done to food supplies in this way.

The time bombs, to which reference has also already been made, seem, too, to be of a new type, and the detonators in them cannot be found and removed.

Members of the Commission also found a bomb case marked "high Explosive. GB 5143". This bomb was one of those used to destroy the shrine of Mo Ran Bon.

The surviving inhabitants of Phyöngyang live in primitively-contrived dug-outs, or in shelters that they have managed to contrive for themselves in cellars or within the surviving walls of bombed buildings. Members of the Commission, which divided into four groups for the purpose, spent nearly four hours visiting different sections of the city, and none of them, in the course of this tour, saw a single house that still possessed both four walls and a roof. They did, however, come across a number of families whose surviving members were living among the debris. For example, the family of Kang Bok-Sen, consisting of five people in all, including one child aged 3 and one aged 8 months, were found living in a dug-out beneath the destroyed headquarters of the Democratic Women's Federation of Phyöngyang. This dug-out measures approximately one meter by two, and the members of the family have to creep down a narrow shaft three meters deep in order to reach this shelter, which is their only living space. The earth walls are too low to enable an adult to stand upright.

The members saw enough to conclude that this shelter was typical rather than exceptional, and it would be possible to quote many more instances of families living in similar conditions.

Kang Bok-Sen's daughter living in this dug-out told the Commission that the Americans made the Opera and the remains of the adjoining house into an Army-brothel. To this brothel they took by force women and young girls they caught in the streets. As she feared a similar fate, she did not leave her dug-out for 40 days. The husband of her friend, Ri San-Sen, was beaten up by Americans because he hid his wife from them. An inhabitant of Phöngyang, Kwon Son-Don, a 66-year-old worker from another part of the town, confirmed this statement.

Many other residents of Phyöngyang recounted atrocities perpetrated by Americans.

Kim Sun-Ok, 37, mother of four children killed by a bomb, stated that she was evacuated in the village of Song-San Ri after the bombing of her house on July 3, 1950. There she saw 37 people killed by the Americans, among them the secretary of the local women's organization. The Americans led her naked through the streets and later killed her by pushing a red-hot iron bar into her vagina. Her small son was buried alive.

The above was signed by all delegates on May 21st, 1951.

### CHAPTER III

Members of the delegation visited the province of Whang-Hai and the towns of Anak and Sinchen. Those who took part in this visit were Eva Priester (Austria), Li Keng (China), Candelaria Rodriguez (Cuba), Nora K. Rodd (Canada), Maria Ovsyannikova (USSR), Monica Felton (England).

Members of the Commission established that in the whole province of Whang-Hai 120,000 had been killed by the occupying armies, in addition to those killed by aerial bombardment. In the town of Anak 19,092 people were stated to have been killed by the USA, British and Syngman Rhee forces.

In the town of Anak the members of the Commission visited a building that before the war had been a store house attached to a peasant bank, and that had been turned into a prison by the US forces. It was divided into five cells each about 4 meters long by 3 meters wide. Witnesses stated that these cells had been so crowded that it was impossible for prisoners to sit down.

A peasant woman, Han-Nak Son of 194 Sun San Ri Street, informed members that her husband, Kim Bon Quan, and her husband's brother, Kim Bon Kyon, were arrested on November 10th, 1950, and taken to this prison. The arrests were made by two American soldiers accompanied by four soldiers of the Syngman Rhee forces. The woman herself ran away and managed to hide. She stated that both her husband and brother-in-law and the other prisoners were all either peasants or workers, and none of them was either an official of any kind or a member of the Workers' Party. Many children, some of them as young as two years old, were taken to this prison with their mothers. The prisoners were confined for fifteen days without food, and were beaten with iron bars. Members were informed that these beatings were carried out by Syngman Rhee troops with a USA officer in command. On November 25th, 1950, the prisoners, including women and children, were taken to the hills and buried alive in trenches.

Another witness, an elderly man named Kim San-Yen, living at 172 Se San Ri Street, said that his whole family of 12 persons had been arrested, including his wife, his son, his son's wife and their child of two. At first he himself was not able to discover what had happened to them. Later he learned that they had been taken to the hills and killed. After the liberation of the town he went to search for their bodies, and found the remains of his son and his son's wife, bound together with ropes. Neither body had any wounds and Kim San-Yen therefore concluded that they had been buried alive. He stated that his son, who worked in a state shop, had been arrested because he was a shock-worker. He himself was arrested on October 18th, but released on October 29th. He told the members of the Commission that he himself had always been a religious man, and that he had expected that the Americans who were a Christian people, would behave well. He could not imagine that the Americans, as Christians would be able to commit such atrocities.





*A mass grave is opened for the Commission at Anak*

The members of the Commission then visited another prison. Here, too, they were told that there was no room for the prisoners either to sit or to lie down. Members were shown an instrument used for beating the prisoners, which they identified as a standard USA army baseball bat (this was taken for evidence). Marks of blood could be clearly seen on the wooden floor of the corridor outside the cells.

A woman, Shoy Um-Bok, of 187 San-Nai Ri Street, stated that her husband and son had been confined in this prison and later killed. Her son's wife was beaten so severely that she is still confined to bed. A boy of 9 years old, Pak Chan-Oi, stated that his father, Pak Pyan-Su, aged 46, had also been killed. When asked who killed his father, he replied: "The Americans". The boy and his mother were also arrested and confined in this prison. They were told that they would be killed too, but were liberated by the Korean People's Army. The mother told members that she had been tortured by having red-hot knitting needles pushed into her finger nails. Members of the Commission observed the marks of disfigurement. The witness stated that when she was led to be tortured she saw people being thrown alive into a pit in the yard outside.

The members of the Commission inspected this pit, which was an unused well. It was surrounded by a concrete wall about 60 cm. high and about 1 meter in diameter. It appeared to be about 7 or 8 meters deep, and in the strong morning light human remains could clearly be seen at the bottom. Members noticed nearest to the surface the body of a child dressed in a dark coat with shining buttons.

Members were then taken to a site about 2 km from the town where, on a hillside situated in open country, many of the town's people had been buried. Some in small groups and others in large mass graves. These graves had been opened to enable members to inspect the remains. One grave was for children, and those corpses that were identifiable had been removed at the time of the liberation for private burial. The bodies that remained were too mutilated for identification. Apart from these remains, the members could see children's shoes, tufts of women's hair, books and small personal possessions, and also the ropes with which people had been bound together. Another large grave was filled with adult bodies. A witness, Huan Sin-Ya, stated that her mother had been buried alive but had managed to dig herself out. She was subsequently recaptured and buried again. In the same grave 450 people were said to be buried. There are twenty such graves on this hillside, and members were told that about twelve such hillsides had been put to similar use.

Members next saw a large number of women from the district. One was a girl of eleven, called Kim Sen-Ai, who came from the village of On-Gun Ri, 32 km from Anak. She stated that she was in the fourth class at school when the Americans came to her village and she was put into prison with her parents. After twelve days her father was crucified and thrown into a river. The child's mother was a member of the Workers' Party, and the child told members that for this her mother had had her head and her breasts cut off. The same child's four year old sister was buried alive. The child herself is now in a school for orphans, and on learning from her teacher that the Commission was visiting the district asked to be allowed to give evidence.



*Anak*  
*Here again they found bodies of children*



### *Sinyju*

*A townsoman tells her story to members of the Commission*

Another girl Shin Soon-Dza who was also eleven years old and who was at the same school as Kim Sen-Ai, stated that she and her mother and sister were evacuated from their home when the Americans approached, but were seized and captured. When they refused to answer questions they were beaten and her mother and sister were shot. The child herself escaped, but was recaptured, put in prison and beaten by the Americans. Members saw the deep scars that were still left on her head.

Ok Bun-Dzen, a girl of 16 from the village of Won-On-Ri, said that her father and mother were arrested, released and rearrested. Their heads were cut off and thrown into the river. This act was witnessed by the whole of the village, including herself. Afterwards, she was arrested and put into a prison where there was standing room only. When the child of a woman nearby started to cry it was bayoneted by the Americans.

A woman Sim Tong-Bin, who came from the village of Wu-Se Ri 8 km from Anak, stated that the Americans had killed her husband, her father-in-law, mother-in-law and sister-in-law. All of them were shot and when they appeared to be still alive after the shooting, with the exception of the father-in-law, they were bayoneted. The father-in-law was buried alive. Ok Eu-Plan, a woman of 49, who lived Yo-Nam-Street No. 40, Anak, stated that her son of twenty-five was arrested by the Americans and beaten with iron bars, and although his head was badly crushed he remained alive and was buried alive. This woman's daughter-

in-law was put into a sack and beaten and the sack was then thrown away, the mother-in-law succeeded in finding and rescuing her daughter-in-law but the victim is still in bed and unable to move.

A young woman Tsen Hwa-Uk who came from the village of Che-Do Ri, 20 km from Anak, stated that she had been arrested by Americans and, along with 19 other people, led away to be shot. She herself was shot in her shoulder and, with the others thrown into the river. She and another woman, Li Hi-Dzin, 40 years old, succeeded in freeing each other's bonds and swam together a distance of about six kilometers. Li Hi-Dzin died of her wounds, but Tsen Hwa-Uk managed to reach a cave where she hid for three and a half months till the arrival of the Korean People's Army. She showed members of the Commission three bullet marks in her left shoulder. She also stated that in her village more than one hundred people had been killed.

In the course of their journey, the cars of the Commission were stopped on a number of occasions by the inhabitants of the villages through which they passed, and the people recounted many instances of the sufferings they had endured at the hands of the US forces.

On the way to Sinchen members of the Commission were stopped by peasants whose legs were covered with mud and who were carrying heavy implements. They said that in their district the river was rising and that bodies which had been thrown in months earlier were now coming to the surface. They themselves had been spending the night in trying to rescue the bodies of their fellow countrymen.



*In front of the Cave at Anak where men, women and children were beaten and burnt to death (on the right, the entrance of the cave)*



The members spent some time in the town of Sinchen. In this city, 23,259 people were said to have been killed. Members were shown a building which had originally been a school and which had been used by the US army as its regional headquarters. Outside this building were two natural caves. Members were told that 30 women and children had been imprisoned in the first, and then shot. In the second cave 104 people had been confined. Petrol had been thrown over them and then ignited. Not all of them were burned to death. Those who were not reached by the flames were asphyxiated by the fumes. The members noticed that there were blood stains on the walls on the first cave, and that the interior of the second cave still showed marks of burning.

At the front of the building referred to above, a dug-out had been constructed. Members of the Commission were told that this dug-out was used for questioning and torturing local people. Here too, blood stains were clearly visible on the walls.

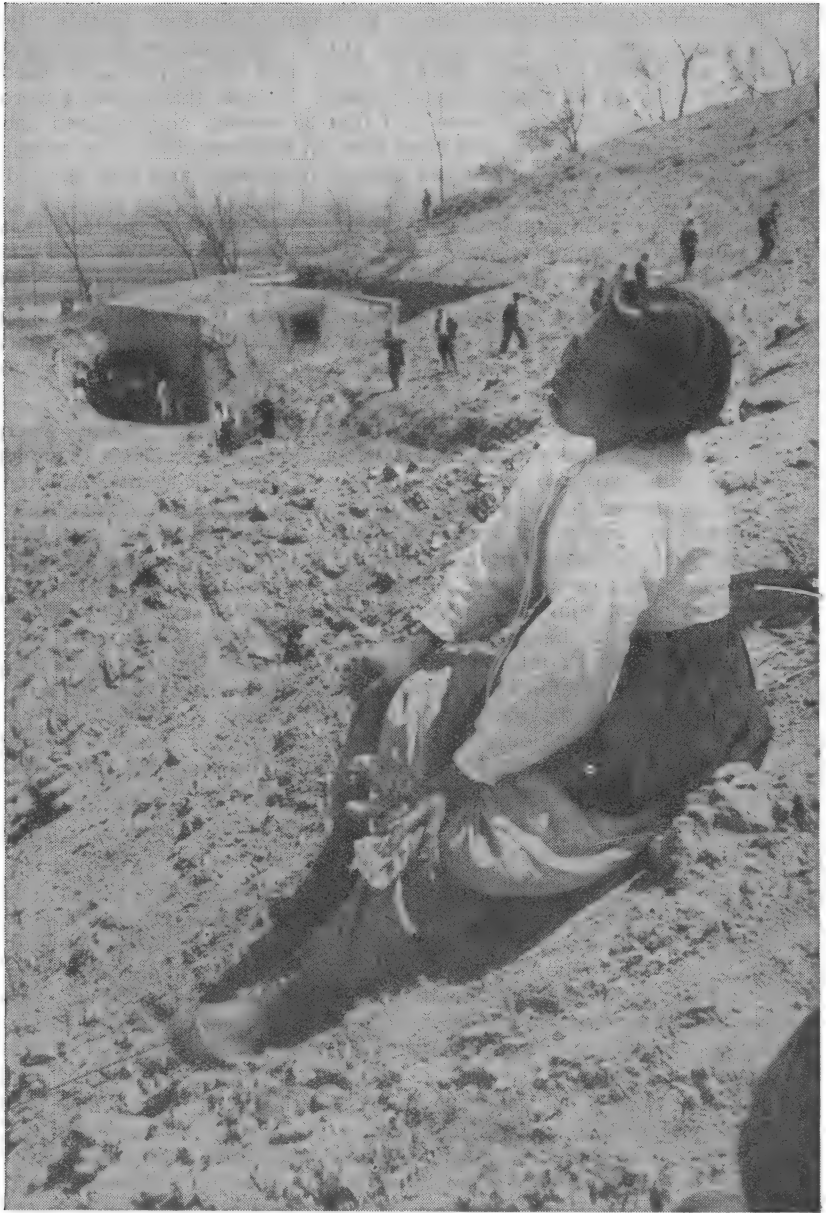
Members next visited a building which was only partly finished when the US forces occupied the town, but which had been used by them as their local administrative and police center. At the back of this building was what appeared to be a natural cave, which had been enlarged by the Koreans to make an air raid shelter. Members were told that 479 people who had been imprisoned in the main building were put into one section of this cave before the Americans evacuated the town, and after having petrol poured over them, were burned to death. In another and larger section of the cave, more than one thousand people were said to have been killed by machine-gunning. A witness, Han Yan-Guan of 248 Ko Nam Street, stated that he was a mill worker who escaped from the town and joined the partisans when the US forces arrived. On his return after the liberation, he helped to dig out the bodies from the smaller section of this cave. He stated that the bodies were undressed and burned, but that none of them showed marks of shooting.

Members of the Commission saw in the cave fragments of human scalps as well as blood stains and marks of burning on the walls.

Outside the cave, members of the Commission met a number of local inhabitants whose relatives had been killed. One woman, Chai Chun-Ok, aged 65, of 247 Ko-Hom Street, brought an instrument like a gigantic pair of tongs which she said had been used for squeezing the prisoners' feet and for similar tortures. She also said that seven of her eight sons and daughters were among those shot in the larger cave. She said: "The Americans are wild beasts. They came into our town and killed everyone here."

Another woman, Pak Yo-Suk, of 197 San-Dong Ri Street, said that her husband, her son and six grandsons were killed in the first cave. Her son was a peasant. She said: "We thought that Americans were Christians, gentlemen. We did not think that they would kill people with such brutality."

A boy of 13, Pen Sung-Su, of 292 San-Ding Street, said that of his family of 13 persons there were only himself and his mother left. The rest of the family were beaten and then burned to death in the cave.



*Sinchon*

*Store house made prison where 300 women and children starved, beaten and burned alive*

A woman, Pak Su, who had lost all her family, said: "Americans believe in Christ, so how can they kill people?" She added that before the Americans came she had been a Christian and went to church regularly, but she could no longer believe in anything.

In both the first and the second visits described above, the members of the Commission noticed everywhere the strong odor of decaying human flesh.

Members were then taken to a hillside just outside the town. Here they were shown a flat-roofed storehouse built of brick and covered with cement, about 15 meters by 9 meters. The windows were high up and heavily barred. Here, they were told, 300 women and children were imprisoned and starved. The women were burned alive there. The children were starved to death. A witness, Yan Yen-Dek, aged 28, of 117 Song-Wha Street, said that she had had five children who were now all dead. Her husband had also been killed. She herself had been imprisoned in this storehouse with her child of two. The child was trampled on by the Americans until its intestines fell out. She herself was taken from the storehouse by two American soldiers and was raped by both of them. They then tortured her and threw her out, and she managed to escape.

A woman, San Ai-Su, aged about 36, said that her whole family of 15 members had been killed by the Americans. Her three children had frozen to death in this storehouse.

A girl of 19, Lin Nan-Ya, stated that the Americans shot her parents and her two brothers.

Son Suk-Ma, aged 21, stated that she was the only survivor from a family of ten. Her husband, her baby, her parents and brothers had all been killed by the Americans. She herself was in prison in Haiju where all her clothes had been taken away and she had been left naked. Her child who was with her died of starvation.

Another woman, Pak-Mi-Dza, aged 35, of 2 San-dzen Street, said that of her family of 22 only she was left. She asked: "What are you going to do to help us get our revenge? I cannot live without revenge."

On a hillside about 60 meters above the storehouse described above, the members saw two graves, which were opened for their inspection. One held the remains of 70 children, and the other of about 200 women. All the bodies were badly charred. Further on was a small prison that, members were told, had been used only for children. This prison was destroyed. Local inhabitants stated that since the liberation the area of the storehouse and of the adjoining graves had been bombed frequently, and they believed that this was because the Americans were trying to destroy the evidence of the crimes that had been committed. In visiting the graves, members of the Commission had to step around several large bomb craters.

Song Chun-Ok, aged 42, of 8 Sar-dzen Street, said that all her family had been killed. Her young children had been killed with axes and knives. She said: "I will go to the front and do anything until the whole of Korea is free from Americans." She added: "It was not only the American soldiers who did these things. It was English soldiers too."

Later, a group of 50 women, some from villages as far as 40 km from Sinchen, came to meet the members of the Commission. Each of these women was anxious to describe her own personal experiences, but lack of time made it impossible to give a hearing to more than a comparatively small number.

Kim Yen, a woman of 64 from the village of Kim-dze Ri, said that her daughter Pen Dong-Nan aged 34, was arrested for being an active peasant. An American officer told the daughter that it would be wasteful to use a bullet on her. The daughter was then bound hand and feet and a bayonet was stuck through the two-year-old child which she carried



*Korean mothers visit us at Sinchen*

on her back and then into her own body. When she shouted "Long live Kim Ir Sen and the Republic", her tongue was cut out and she was buried alive. Kim Yen said that she learned the details of her daughter's end from a Syngman Rhee soldier who boasted to her that he himself had performed these brutalities under the orders of an American officer. In addition, Kim Yen said that her son-in-law, his mother, his brother and her own two grandchildren, aged 15 and 12, were also murdered.

Yu Tong-Dze, a woman of 41 from the village of Kwon-Chou, told members of the Commission that 35,000 innocent people had been killed in her district. In her village 175 were killed. Among them were 18 members of her own family, including her husband and her youngest child who was five months old. She herself was arrested but later

released. She said that in her village there were both English and American soldiers and both behaved like beasts. She said that she saw with her own eyes how American and English troops threw innocent people in the river. Asked how she knew the nationality of the men, she said that she knew the difference between British and American uniforms. She asked: "Do they have no pity in England? Do they believe in killing little children?" She stated that when the American troops retreated they said to the inhabitants of her village: "Come south with us, for we shall throw the atom bomb on North Korea and everything will be destroyed." Then, when the people left their village to go south, they were machine-gunned from air.

Ni Yu-Nye from San Gen said that her daughter and son-in-law were killed. Her daughter was a teacher. The witness said that neither was shot, but that both were beaten to death with sticks.

Pak On-In, aged 22, from the village of Sa-Ok Ri, said her husband was arrested along with his three brothers who were peasants and who were all killed. She herself saw with her own eyes an eighteen-year-old girl, called Kim Yen-Sun, being violated and then killed. She said that this was done by American and British soldiers. She said that some people had hot irons put into their nostrils and were led into the streets by the Americans. She knew a man, a peasant, to whom this was done. His name was Lee San Sun. She herself succeeded in running away and hiding on a hill. Later she found the body of her husband. His head had been beaten open and he had been burned.

Li Di Ye, aged 30, from 30 Chek-So Ri Street, said that her husband was a gardener. She said that when the American soldiers came to arrest him, they told her that they would exterminate all North Koreans. She said that in her street there were 100 houses, and out of these 90 families had been killed. She herself was arrested with her two children, but in the course of being transferred from one prison to another she managed to escape. She tried to go to Phyoŋgyang, was caught again, and Americans ordered her to be shot, but a Syngman Rhee soldier allowed her to escape. She stated that she saw North Korean prisoners of war put into a field. Petrol was poured over them and they were burned alive.

Kim Suk-Sen from the village of Say-San Ri said that her children were taken and killed because she herself was an active member of the women's organization. Her husband was also killed. Her daughter, Kim Chun-Dza, aged 20, who was studying nursing, had nails put into her ear; a drum was then fastened on to her back and she was forced through the streets naked. The daughter was then put into prison, US troops tried to violate her, she resisted and was bayoneted. The mother found her body which was mutilated and cut in two. Kim Suk-Sen stated that when the US forces came to the town they organized a brothel. They caught young girls and women and took them forcibly. The witness stated that the pretty girls were taken for the American and British officers and soldiers and the others for the Syngman Rhee troops. She stated that she knew that three girls who had been in this brothel were still alive. The others were killed. In her village there had been 140 houses, and a total of 240 people had been killed.

Hwan Ik-Su, aged 14, from the village of San-chen Ri, said that seven of her family of eleven were killed by US, English and Canadian soldiers. She herself was arrested because her father, who was a miner, was an active worker. She was taken to prison with her mother and her two brothers. She herself was beaten and showed the marks on her legs to members of the commission. The family were then taken to a shed and petrol was poured on them. But before the shed could be set on fire they were freed by partisans. Among the partisans she met a man who, with



*Phyöngyang*  
*Near Phyöngyang. After a bombardment*

two others, had been with her father, but who had himself managed to escape. This man told her that her father had been bayoneted in five places and that his head had been crushed. Her brother was led through the streets with a rope around his neck and then buried alive with five other victims.

During their travels in the province of Hwan Hai-Do, the members of the Commission saw destroyed cities and burned-down villages everywhere.

The above was signed by all delegates who visited the province of Hwan Hai Do. May 26, 1951.



*A church at Phyöngyang*

#### **CHAPTER IV**

### **REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS IN NAMPHO AND KANGSE, SOUTHERN PHYÖNGYANG PROVINCE**

**May 22—23, 1951**

**Participants:** Gillette Ziegler, France  
Fatma ban Sliman, Tunisia  
Abassia Fodil, Algeria  
Li-thi-Quê, Viet-Nam  
Ida Bachmann, Denmark  
Kate Fleron Jacobson, Denmark (Observer).

**T**he city of Nampho had 60,000 inhabitants before the bombings. Now about 50 per cent are left.

We were informed by the head of the People's Committee of Southern Phyöngyang Province, Sok Chan-Nam, that there had been no war industries, the main industries being glass, textiles, porcelain, foodstuffs and chemical fertilizers. Although Nampho is a seaport on the Yellow Sea, it has no great importance as a harbor, either for the purposes of trade or warfare, because the water is very shallow.

The city had consisted of 20,000 buildings. There had been one technical college, one agricultural college and a theatre, now all destroyed. The 13 hospitals of the city had all been marked with the red cross, but they had nevertheless been so badly destroyed by incendiary bombs that only one of them can be repaired. Of 26 schools only two are left for use, and only one church, a small one, had escaped destruction.

The American occupation of Nampho lasted from October 22 to December 5, 1950. During that time, many buildings were burned, and all foodstuffs were destroyed. 1,511 persons were brutally killed by the Americans during the occupation. More than half of these were women and children.

Nampho has been bombed continually, but the most terrible bombing took place on May 6, 1951. We drove round the city, stopping in many places. Wherever we looked we saw that almost all houses were completely destroyed, craters in the ground, heaps of rubbish and some chimneys being all that indicated the former existence of homes. The remaining buildings were heavily damaged. In every place we stopped people gathered around us, telling us the story of their recent tragedy, the losses of their nearest relatives and their homes, and showing us their wounds caused by torture inflicted by the Americans.

The Young-Dong Ri section of the city had been turned into a graveyard, as one of the survivors said. Every family had lost three or four, even up to ten members. Of this section, located partly on a hillside, no wall remained standing; of the trees only shining black charcoal stumps remained.

Standing on the ruin of a bomb crater, a man, Li Tong-Wha, 42, said: "There was my home. I lost six members of my family—my wife, my two children and three other relatives—in the May bombing. We Koreans will defend our country, and we hope the International Women's Organization



*Beside the mass graves at Sinchen  
Korean woman weeps with delegate from Cuba*



will defend the cause of Korea." Another man, Kim Su-Yong, lost all ten members of his family. He said: "All Koreans are like one man. I cannot express my feelings, but I hope the world will understand." Others cried for revenge.

In this same section, 16 patients had been killed when the hospital had been struck by incendiary bombs on May 6th.

In another section of the city, we visited an emergency hospital for the treatment of serious burns, which had been constructed deep under the surface of the earth. It consisted of a low naked passage of about one and a half meters in width, cut into the rock, making room for 17 beds.

The large market of Nampho was bombed on April 21, in the middle of the day. Forty-eight persons were killed and much foodstuff destroyed. Now the market was almost empty.

The fertilizer factory, one of the largest of North Korea, was bombed for six hours (9 a. m. to 3 p. m.) on August 31, 1950. Of the 900 workers, 300 were killed, and the huge buildings were heavily damaged, most of them beyond repair.

In the afternoon we met several eye-witnesses, among whom were the following: two children, Kim Sun-Ok, girl, 13, and Kim Kwon-Ho, boy, 11, both from the orphanage. When the Americans came to Nampho they tried to force the children to be christened. Those who refused were deprived of food and tortured. Before their departure, the Americans spread propaganda that the Chinese volunteers would kill the children, and the Americans would throw atomic bombs on North Korea.

Guon Tai-Son, 44, who did not belong to any political party, was the owner of a grain mill, employing ten workers. When the Americans came they confiscated the entire stock of grain, and on their departure they destroyed everything. Misled by the propaganda of the Americans, Guon Tai-Son followed the American troops. Along with some compatriots he set out for Haiju, near the 38th parallel, where many refugees gathered. The Americans machine-gunned the crowds, and thousands of people were killed.

Ho Young-Yuk, 46, a Protestant clergyman, told us that there had been 4,500 Christians in Nampho. These also had let themselves be misled by the American propaganda. The congregation of the Church On-Yang Ri, for instance, was among 1,500 persons who prepared to leave Nampho by boat on December 5th. The Americans opened fire on them from the sea and attacked them with machine-guns from the air. The Christians, thinking it was a mistake, began to sing hymns—but the Americans continued shooting and killed 275 persons.

Kim Kwon-Tai, 48, a member of the Peasants' Union, was arrested on account of this membership. The Americans had beaten his legs and hands, and as a result of this torture his fingers were crippled and he would never be able to walk properly again. His wife and daughter were also beaten by the Americans. His wife's nose had been broken by the beating.

In the town of Kangse a considerable part of the buildings, including a big boys' school, has been destroyed. In the country district of Sinchen, 1,561 persons were murdered by the Americans during their occupation from October 20 to December 7th. Of these 1,384 were killed by shooting

(932 males, 452 females, among them were 454 children under eight); 57 were killed by hanging (42 men, 15 women); 50 were buried alive (30 men, 20 women); 35 were burned to death (33 men, 2 women), and so on. This information was given us by the head of the People's Committee, Li Yung-Suk, in the presence of about 40 of the survivors, men and women.

Based on the accounts of the many witnesses we heard during the day, we can state that the Americans arrested people for the following "crimes": for being patriots, for having relatives in the army, for belonging to the Peasants' Union or other democratic organizations, such as the Consumers' Cooperative, or for having relatives who belonged to these. (A man who had worked in the cooperative store showed us



*Pak Den Ai — President of the Korean Women's Union. Che Den Zuk, Minister of Culture and Education, Prime Minister Kim Ir Sen, and a Vice Minister. Kim Ir Sen said, "Never will Korea be an American colony"*

numerous scars on both legs which had been burnt by the Americans with red-hot iron rods).

The Americans took to the mountains those of their 1,561 victims who had not died as a result of torture, shooting some and burying the others alive. The mass graves were found shortly after the retreat of the Americans, pointed out by local peasants who had been forced by the Americans to dig the mass graves before the killing took place.

The mass graves were found in the following places: Taichang Mo, Muyon Ri, Wha San bong, Chang Tai Kwan, Chong-So myen, Lika myen, and Tong Kul myen. From the mountain Taichang Mo we could see many of the mass graves on the surrounding mountains and hills.

Accompanied by the head of the People's Committee and a large gathering of mothers, wives, fathers and children of the victims, we stood by the mass graves on this mountain. Some of the bodies had been identified by relatives and removed to a mountain on the opposite side of the valley, where they were buried in mounds, which we also saw. When the mass graves were opened in December 1950, it was possible to settle the method by which each one had been murdered. In our presence, some of the unidentified bodies were uncovered. We saw the hands of the corpses tied on their backs, the skulls of some had been crushed, and we found American cartridges, bloody rags, hair, ropes, shoes and other pieces of clothing. By the straight black hair and the characteristic clothes on the corpses it was easily recognized by us that the victims were Korean peasants.

On this mountain alone were eight mass graves, one of which was 80 meters long, another was 70 meters long, deep enough for two layers of bodies. Other graves were much deeper (about 5 meters), and shorter.

Apart stood a small mound, where the Koreans had buried the dead bodies of 20 children found in the mass graves with their mothers.

One of the women who had accompanied us to the mountain, Tang Buk Tong, 44, told us that she had found her brother's body sitting in the grave with his head between his knees and his hands tied behind his back. She added that what she had seen when the graves had been opened was so dreadful that she could hardly look upon it—corpses with open eyes, mothers killed with their babies on their backs, etc.

Another of the several eye-witnesses who spoke up, a man named Kim Ki-Sun, 58, told us that his son, his daughter-in-law and their son had been buried alive by the Americans while he was in hiding. He had traced the place and had himself dug up the dead bodies, hands tied behind their backs.

We asked the people whether the torture and murder had been committed by Americans only or if there had been Syngman Rhee troops among them. The answer was: "In this district there were only Americans. They did it."

During the day we heard many alerts, due to the fact that we were near the coast where the American planes constantly prevent the fishermen from going out, in this way trying to deprive the Korean people of food. Only by night a few boats can venture out.

During the American occupation of this district, 15,860 sacks of grain were destroyed by the Americans by fire, and the Americans took away 23,453 sacks when they left.

All the cattle, pigs, chickens and ducks and some horses were slaughtered and eaten by the Americans. In the autumn of 1950 when the grain was ready to be harvested, the Americans destroyed 4,300 hectares\* of ricefields and 2,100 hectares of other grain fields by incendiary bombs.

N. B. In Nampho it was not possible for the inhabitants, who told us their stories, to give us their addresses, since streets and houses were wiped out. But they gave their names.

The above was signed by all delegates of the group on May 27th, 1951, in Korea.

\* Hectare = 2.47 acres.



*The peasants cultivate the land at night*

## CHAPTER V

From the 22nd to the 24th of May, 1951, a group of delegates,  
Lin Chin-Yang, China,  
Germaine Hannevard, Belgium,  
Elisabetta Gallo, Italy,  
Miluse Svatosova, Czechoslovakia,

visited the village of Madzen (150 km from Phyöngyang, 48 km from Wonsan), in the district of Moon Chen, province of Kang-Won, and the port of Wonsan also in Kang-Won.

The delegation passed through the cities of Phyöngyang and Kang-tong and Sang-tong, which were almost completely destroyed. They also passed through the bathing resort of Yangtok, famous for its hot springs. Yangtok was now reduced to a mass of rubble and ruins, among which were the remains of a secondary school.

We saw the peasants cultivating their fields during the night, because during the day the American planes attack them with machine-guns. The fields were cultivated with care.

In Ma-dzen Ri, the peasants told us the government plan for spring agricultural work had been fulfilled ahead of time in spite of the fact that they had to work by night.

In the environs of Madzen Ri, the delegates saw large areas of mountain forest that had been burnt by American incendiary bombs which are dropped on mountains, forests, fields and villages.

The inhabitants of Madzen Ri told us that on the night of May 23rd, American planes had thrown three bombs on their village and destroyed several houses.

A peasant, Kim Song-il, stated that:

The Americans occupied the village of Madzen Ri from October 14th till December 5th, 1950. They invaded the village after five days' fighting with the People's Army. During the entire occupation, the Americans were encircled and to strengthen their position they burned all the surrounding villages, arrested the inhabitants who had not fled and imprisoned them in a temporary prison in Madzen Ri. After a few days they set free a number of women who escaped to the mountains or hid in the ruins of their houses. In all, about 500 of the inhabitants were imprisoned; 54 were killed; 76 were sent to Wonsan and have not yet been found. All the imprisoned women were beaten; 20 of them were raped.

Kim Song-il maintained that the only South Koreans who came with the Americans were some interpreters and no Syngman Rhee troops.

In the village of Ku-mi, four km from Madzen Ri, the Americans threw hand grenades into a bomb shelter where the inhabitants had taken refuge, and killed nine old men, women and children.

After the Americans were driven out, the inhabitants disinterred the victims and learned how they had been killed:

- 1) by explosion of cartridges in their mouths,
- 2) by splitting their heads with axes,
- 3) by burying them alive.

Among those who witnessed the exhumation were Kim Song-II, Se Woon, former chairman of the People's Committee Tzeng Seng Kal, Yang Ki Whan and others. Soon after their retreat the Americans burned down the village by incendiary bombs. The heaviest bombardments took place on December 15 and 20, 1950. During these bombardments the entire family of the peasant Chen Ki Son (consisting of 10 people) was killed, including 7 children, and 10 people (including 4 children) were machine-gunned from an aeroplane.

Kim Puh Chen, 43 years old, a mother of 4 children, told the members of the Commission that the Americans persecuted the population as "communists". The Americans arrested her husband, who was vice-chairman of the People's Committee in the village of Ko Ri. They gave him a severe beating with wooden sticks and rifle butts, and carried him half-dead to Wonsan, where he died from his wounds. The village chairman of the People's Committee was buried alive and his old father was shot. Kim-Puh-Chen said: "The chairman of the Women's Organization in Ko-Ri, Tzen Man Suk, 31 years of age, was arrested by the Americans as a "red" and violated for two days in succession."

Cha Ok Sun, a woman of 27, mother of two children, told us that her husband had been working at the post office at Ko-Ri, and she herself had cultivated their little field. The Americans imprisoned both of them with their two children, the younger only one year of age, and beat them, accusing them of being a "red family." She never saw her husband again. The Americans took her to Wonsan. During several days in prison she received only two bowls of rice. Consequently she could no longer feed

her baby. While in prison in Wonsan she saw that the American soldiers chose several girls each night and violated them. After twenty days in the Wonsan prison she was freed by the People's Army.

Kan Yu-Han, a peasant woman from Ko-Ri, 28 years of age and mother of a child of 18 months, told us that she had fled to the mountains before the Americans arrived. On the very day she returned in order to look after the harvesting, she was imprisoned with her child. She was whipped because she could not keep her baby from crying from hunger. After four days of solitary confinement she was taken to Wonsan and put in



*Makeshift homes in Sinychu*

an underground prison, with her baby, and from here she was freed by the People's Army.

Wonsan is a port on the Sea of Japan, and the capital of the province of Northern Kang-won. The president of the Worker's Party of the province Che Kwan-Yol, gave us the following information: "Before the war, Wonsan had 123,127 inhabitants. Of these only 57,667 remain. And of 27,345 houses and public buildings only 9,257 remain, this number including houses that are more or less damaged.

"The American occupation lasted from October 14th until December 9th, 1950. From that date until March 31, 1951, Wonsan was attacked by 275 bombers (B-29's) and 917 fighter-planes, which dropped 838 high-explosive bombs and machine-gunned the houses and inhabitants 3,519 times. During this time warships shelled the city 487 times. The victims number 518 wounded and 498 killed, of them 255 were male, and 243 female, including 241 children.

During our stay in Wonsan, the warships repeatedly fired at the city and its environs. The cannonade grew particularly strong during the night between May 23 and 24. According to official information, 6,752 shells were fired during the night, 65 public buildings and 49 private houses, already damaged, were completely burned and destroyed. Eleven inhabitants were killed, four were wounded seriously, and three received lighter wounds. Also killed were three oxen.

We paid a visit to the shelled section of the city located close to the oil refinery which had been completely destroyed. In that place we examined several high-explosive and incendiary shells.

Each house was nothing but a mass of rubble, covered by a layer of burnt straw which was still smoking. Just before our arrival, the dead bodies of a mother and her two children had been dug out. We saw the charred corpse of this woman wrapped in a straw mat for burial.

Most of the inhabitants who had found refuge in bomb shelters were working to clear away the wreckage. While we were there, three air alarms forced us to seek shelter in the dug-outs in the mountainside, the only kind of habitation left for the unfortunate people. In this way real troglodyte-towns came into existence. We visited such a "town", Chun chong-Ri. It consisted entirely of caves, cut into the slopes of the ravines. The entrance was camouflaged with a network of branches, the inhabitants being afraid of having their caves discovered and machine-gunned by American aviators.

Kwon Chin-Hi, chairman of the Democratic Women's Federation of the province of Kang-Won, read the following official report to us:

"The attacks on the province of Kang Won began early July, 1950. Besides a great many other buildings, the following have been destroyed:

1) On July 13, 1950, the rest home for workers where 168 workers were killed, Elementary School No. 13, the central hospital, the Red Cross hospital where the head nurse was killed, also hospital No. 1, where three patients and two nurses were killed.

2) On August 13, 1950, the teacher's college and the railway workshop (bombed from eight airplanes, type B-29), more than a hundred workers were killed.

3) On August 15, 1950, the oil refinery (it has been bombed several times since), and the shipyards.

4) On September 13, 1950, Secondary School No. 3 for girls, and the provincial central theatre were hit.

5) On January 25, 1951, the city library.

Neither schools nor hospitals are left in Wonsan now. Teaching is done in small groups; the teachers go from one group to another in the various parts of the city. In the districts located nearest to the 38th parallel, not one habitable house exists. From June 25, 1950, until March 31, 1951, 2,298 women and 2,292 children were killed in the province of Kang-won alone. 676 children have lost both parents.<sup>5</sup>

Of the atrocities committed by the Americans during their occupation of this province from October 9 until December 11, Kwon Chin Lu gave the following official information:

"In the town of Chelwon 1,500 civilians were killed, of whom 130 were buried alive in the shelter to which they had fled.

"In the town of Kalma (district of Kalma, region of Chelwon) the peasant Om Son-Ho and his family, including six children, were bayoneted by the Americans.

"In the village of Sa-Ki-Ri (district of Chelwon, region of Chelwon) several civilians were buried alive, including a child of three who was still alive when the grave was reopened.



*Phyöngyang*  
*No mother, the home a hole in the ground*

"In the village of Ok Tong-Ri (region of Pyong Kang), the peasant Se Dong-Cho's daughter-in-law, 23 years of age and pregnant in the eighth month, was taken by the Americans. She was undressed and exposed publicly, tied to a tree. Her abdomen was cut open and the baby taken out.

"In the village of Mih Yen Ri (district of An-to, region of An-pyen), three women belonging to the family of the peasant Se Yang Son were taken to a shelter and when they defended themselves against the Americans who wanted to rape them, their breasts were cut off, and they were killed, having red-hot irons thrust into their vaginas.

"The women Che Ok-Li, aged 42, living in Bong Son Street in Wonsan, was raped by 14 Americans in succession. She is still alive, but is too ill to leave her bed. She now lives in the village Tong-Chang.

"In the village of Ro-Kok (I Tong district, Chelwon region), the woman Kim Hyo-Sun, aged 32, and her child were arrested by the Americans on November 3. She was undressed by them, had bayonets thrust through



her abdomen and afterwards shot. The child died from hunger by her side.

"In the province of Kang-Won alone, which had 130,000 inhabitants, 2,903 women have been raped by Americans and Syngman Phee troops."

The members of the Commission talked to other witnesses:

Cheng Kyeng Hwa, widow, aged 49, a Protestant missionary, told us that her daughter-in-law, Yun Sun-Se, 25, was awakened in the night and put into a car with two women of the street. She fled out into the rice fields, was chased, violated and shot. Cheng's brother, Cheng Chung-Kwan, and her sister-in-law, Pak Kyeng-Ryel were killed by machine-gun fire. From an aeroplane when walking in the street, the first on December 29, the second on December 24. Cheng Kyeng Hwa is bringing up their six children.

Sin Yenk Ok, 46, a peasant woman living in Kyeng-San Ri Street in Wonsan, said that her daughter-in-law, aged 25 and in the 9th month of her pregnancy (who had been chairman of the woman's organization in her district for the last two years) was arrested on November 18, 1950. She was beaten for being a "red"; five days later she was exposed publicly at the town square. Her child, about to be born, was killed when a rod was thrust into her womb. The mother died at once. This was done by two Americans and one Syngman Rhee man.

Eye-witnesses who were forced to be present during the execution were Lin Pek Man and Kim On Yo.

The husband of this woman, Pak Chan Yen, 26 years of age, son of Sing Yeng-Ok, arrested was beaten and shot at, and left for dead in the woods. The family found him and brought him home where he is now dying from his wounds.

Kim Sen Hi, 55, resident of Wonsan, told the members of the Commission that on November 21, 1950, five American soldiers forced their way into the house of Sin Bon Kin, a Christian widower, while he himself was away, and raped his oldest daughter, Sin Hwa Sun, 21 years old, while her two younger sisters were present. When the two small children fled crying, they were killed in front of the neighbors. Their older sister died three days later.

Li Kum Sun, a peasant woman aged 38, member of the Women's organization, living in Sedon-Ri (in the city of Wonsan) told us that she was arrested with her month-old infant on October 25, 1950. She was taken to Kal Ma Ri suburb, in the town of Wonsan. Every night she was beaten on her back and stomach when she was brought for interrogation. On November 10 she was freed. Five days later her child died. On November 20, her husband was arrested, tortured for seven days, then taken away. After the liberation Li Kum-Sun discovered her husband's body in a valley near Chong-Chen Ri, district of Se-won, in the region of An-Pyen. On the bank of the stream lay thirty nine bodies, hands still tied behind the back and a bullet hole through each left eye.

This chapter was signed by all the members of the group. May 26, 1951.



## CHAPTER VI

The Northern part of Korea was visited by a group consisting of the following members of the Commission:

Hilde Cahn (German Democratic Republic),

Lilly Waechter (West Germany)

Bai Lang (China)

Trees Soenito Heyligers (Netherlands).

The route followed was from Phyöngyang to Kaichen, thence to Hichen, Kange, Mam-po, and back to Phyöngyang.

On the way from Phyöngyang to Kaichen, the members of the Commission saw four small towns, which were almost completely destroyed; also many burned-down villages and peasant dwellings. The members, in the whole course of their journey, did not see one town that had not been destroyed, and there were very few undamaged villages.

The members of the Commission saw six forest fires, two of which were ignited before their eyes — one between Phyöngyang and Kaichen,

and the second between Hichen and Kaichen. On both occasions a plane was heard, members of the Commission saw light flashing upwards from the ground, an immediately afterwards they saw a blazing fire that suddenly began to spread rapidly. The members saw the branches of the trees catching fire. In the course of this journey they noticed many mountainsides that had been burned black by forest fires.

Kaichen district contains the town of Kaichen and five villages. The district is situated in the northern part of the province of Phyöngyang Nam-Do. The chairman of the regional People's Committee Kim Beng-Ho, gave members the following information: on the twenty-first of October 1950, Kaichen was occupied by the 26th and 27th armored divisions of the US Army, reinforced by troops from other participating countries. Kim Beng-Ho particularly noticed English, Australian, Canadian and Turkish troops, and a few hundreds of Syngman Rhee troops, totalling 80,000 to 90,000 men. The occupation lasted for 40 days. There is no spot in Kaichen that is not damaged.

Kaichen district had 13,000 houses; over 6,500 were destroyed, most by bombing and others by the retreating forces who set them on fire. The rest of the houses are damaged.

Before June 1950, there were 7,600 oxen and cows, of which only 2,200 were left by the retreating troops; 7,800 pigs, of which 300 were left; over 100,000 hens and chickens of which only 1,000 remained.

Kim Ben-Ho stated that in spite of the fact that so many oxen were taken away, and that most of the men are with the People's Army, the women had the crops sown three weeks earlier than the usual time.

Before being destroyed, Kaichen had a high school, 6 middle schools and 31 primary schools; one library, one theatre and 13 hospitals and clinics. All these institutions were destroyed. It is impossible to rebuild because of the constant bombing.

The district had over 80,000 inhabitants of whom 80% were peasants. The number of inhabitants is now about 60,000, scattered over the countryside. The Americans killed 1,342 people by shooting, burning or beating them to death. As far as it is known, over 860 women were raped, but many women are ashamed to tell. Members of the Commission asked if Kim Beng-Ho were sure that these crimes are committed by American troops. He answered, yes, he was quite sure they were Americans and no other soldiers.

By way of example he told this story: during the occupation he himself was a leader of partisans. One of his men was a well-known organiser Kim Ke-Sun, 31 years old. He lost all his family. His wife Ree Whak-Sil, who was with child, was arrested by the Americans and questioned about her husband. As she refused to give information, they tortured her; they cut off her left arm and then her right leg and finally opened her womb and took away the child. When she was dead, the four children of this family were locked in the house and burned to death. Kim Ke-Sun, when he came back, saw the bodies and heard the story from neighbours.

A woman called Ree Djin-Hyeng, who is living in the town of Kaichen, at 20 Ma-Dyan Ri Street, gave members of the Commission the following information: her younger sister, who had been decorated by the government for excellent work as a peasant, had been an official in the women's democratic movement of the district. Before the American troops arrived, Ree urged her sister to flee with her, but as an official she would not leave and so Ree went on alone with the children of both women. When the younger sister did not come, Ree went back with her 8-year-old son to see what had happened to her sister. She found her, naked and tied to a tree, being beaten by the Americans and questioned as to her husband, and her organization. When she refused to answer, they tortured her with electricity. The 8-year-old boy in a rage threw himself upon the soldiers and was shot. The young woman was tortured for several days and the Americans forced the population to look on. Finally they shot her.

Ree Djin-Hyeng was also arrested but she concealed her relation to her sister and so managed to save her life. Ree told the members of the Commission that she had seen many other cruelties, the story of her sister being only one. She affirms that the Americans hunted women and girls, taking them in their jeeps to their brothels. Ree and other young women escaped by smearing their faces with ashes and dressing like old women.

In the almost completely destroyed town of Kaichen, the members of the Commission saw, among other things, one of the bombed hospitals, the roof still showing the red cross. The chairman of the women's organization of the town said that 500 people were killed in a district of little dwellings, all of which were completely burned down.

A crowd of women and children gathered around the members of the Commission, urging them to listen to their stories. Many of these women were very excited, weeping and clasping our hands and clothes. Time did not permit hearing them all. Members of the Commission noted the following names and facts:

Cha Yu-Suk, an old woman, told that when the Americans came, her wounded son, who had fought in the People's Army, was at home, dressed in uniform. He was shot before her eyes.

A young woman, Kim I-Suk, said that her husband, leader of the Peasants' Union, had been killed. She fled with her baby on her back. American soldiers caught her, dashed the baby to the ground and trod it to death.

O In-bun said that her daughter Kim Yung Dju, 28 years old, was raped by several of the soldiers who later drowned her.

Ree Sun-sil, a young woman, was kept for 12 days, quite naked, in a room with many soldiers.

Kil Ryong-Nye, 20 years old, living in Kaichen, Buk-Bumyen, tells that her brother and sister-in-law were killed by the Americans.

Hong Yung-Bok, 37 years old, living in Kaichen, Hyen-Ryong-Ri, states that her husband was shot.

Kim Ryong-sil, 34 years old, living in Kaichen, Ryang-hen-Ri 472, says that her son was killed.

Rim Un-Dju, 30 years old, living in Kaichen, Chung Hung Ri 57, tells that her brother was killed by the Americans.

Choy Sen-cho, 34 years old, living in Kaichen Myen, Sen-Po Ri, tells that the Americans shot her husband.

After having visited the town, which with the exception of a few houses, is almost blotted out, members of the Commission went to an orphans' home in the country, where 48 children are now being cared for. They had been rescued from the bombed town. One little boy of about six, had become deaf and dumb by shell-shock. His name and those of his relatives are still unknown. In Kaichen, members of the Commission met Ree Sen-Sil, chairman of the democratic women's organization in a village north of Kaichen. She stated among other things that in her village a few weeks ago an American plane dived and opened machine-gun fire on three men working with their oxen in the field. Two men and the three oxen were killed; The third man was badly wounded.

Kangge is situated in the province of Tza-Kangdo. Mr. Ree Chow-Sen, chairman of the provincial People's Committee, gave us the following information: 'This most northern province of Korea is sparsely inhabited, largely by peasants. There is no industry of any importance in the province. The enemy occupied only one part of this province. The People's government of this province does everything possible to help refugees, but the problem of how to give everyone food and shelter is very great. The difficulties were increased by the American planes, machine-gunning the people fleeing north, and killing the cattle on the roads and in the fields.

The town of Kangge had 40,000 inhabitants. There were two colleges for the training of teachers, one college of forestry, a highschool and two middle schools, four primary schools, two theatres. Of all these cultural institutions, only the middle school for boys is still standing and it is damaged. The health centre was destroyed in spite of the red cross on the roof.

The town had two Protestant churches and one Roman Catholic church, a temple of Confucius and a Chen-do church. All were destroyed. The Christian sections of the population at first tried to find shelter in and near the churches. They expected the Americans would spare these buildings.

Not only the town of Kangge, but even the smallest peasant dwellings in the mountains are bombed and burned by the American planes.

The town of Kangge was heavily bombed and nearly completely destroyed on December 12th, 1950. The American planes dropped mainly incendiary bombs and afterwards time-bombs, which exploded at various times up to 20 days after they were dropped.

In the beginning of February 1951 new heavy bombing of the already destroyed city followed. This time mainly time-bombs were used so that the inhabitants for the following 20 days did not dare to enter the town.

The members of the Commission were informed that the only possible military objectives in the area, the railroad and the station, had already been destroyed on the 9th of October 1950.

Members of the Commission visited the almost completely destroyed city and spoke to the surgeon. Dr. Baik Ki-Dje, who stated, that before the city hospital was bombed on December 12th, 1950, the red cross on the roof of the building had been machine-gunned by low-flying American planes.

After the bombing of December 12th, 1950, Dr. Baik himself took care of more than 100 wounded persons. After the bombing in February 1951, he alone saw over 200 people killed. Dr. Baik stated also that he had seen American planes bombing peasant dwellings. He told, for example, how the house of the peasant Pak Hoo-ryong was bombed and that in this house 10 persons were killed.

Members of the Commission asked Dr. Baik how the Government managed to avoid epidemics. The answer was: by vaccinations on a large scale, the medicines for which have been provided by gifts from friends of the Korean people in different parts of the world.

Members of the Commission met in Kangge three peasant-women, who had heard of our stay in the town and came to thank us. One of them said: "I lost my husband and two of my four children in the bombing. I will avenge them by working, so that our People's Army can get what it needs to drive the Americans out, and then we will have peace again."

Mampo is situated at the frontier between Korea and China.

People's Committee chairman Lee told the members of the Commission that this city had 12,700 inhabitants. It has only some light industries in wood and in textiles. Mampo had two heavy bombings; on November 12, 1950, it was almost completely destroyed. Members of the Commission, visiting the ruins, noticed an unusually large number of fragments of incendiary bombs lying around. On December 7, 1950, the already destroyed town was bombed again and in this bombing more than 350 persons, living in cellars and holes among the ruins, were killed. Members of the Commission saw a bombr crater that was at least 7 m. deep. Mampo had also many cultural institutions; among other ruins members of the Commission noticed the remains of a big schoolbuilding and of the theatre.

Here, as in the other ruined cities, many inhabitants live in holes in the ground. Members of the Commission saw such a dwelling, part of a former cellar and completely dark, in which were two small children, the youngest two years of age. They are being taken care of by an older brother of about 13. The members of the Commission learned from him

and from neighbours that the father is a worker on the railroad, and that the mother was killed in the bombing of December 7th, 1950. Mr. Lee stated that the People's Government takes care first of all of those children who have nobody to look after them.

This chapter was signed by all the members of the group on May 27, 1951.

The report has been compiled in five languages: English, French, Russian, Chinese and Korean.

Chairman of the Commission:

Nora K. Rodd (Canada)

Vice-Chairmen:

Liu Chin-yang (China)

Ida Bachmann (Denmark)

Secretaries:

Miluse Svatosova (Czechoslovakia)

Trees Soenito Heyligers (Netherlands)

Members of the Commission:

Monica Felton (England)

Maria Ovsyannikova (USSR)

Bai Lang (China)

Li K'eng (China)

Gillette Ziegler (France)

Elisabetta Gallo (Italy)

Eva Priester (Austria)

Germaine Hannevard (Belgium)

Hilde Cahn (German Democratic Republic)

Lilly Waechter (West Germany)

Li-thi-Qué (Viet-Nam)

Candelaria Rodriguez (Cuba)

Fatma ben Sliman (Tunisia)

Abassia Fodil (Algeria)

Leonor Aguiar Vazquez (Argentina)



- P. 6 Mme Rodd Présidente (Canada) *Nora H. Rodd*
- Vice-P. 6
- { Liu Chur Yang (Chine) *劉清揚*
  - { Ida Bachmann (Danemark) *Ida Bachmann*
- Secrétaires
- { Milla Svatosova (Tchécoslovaquie) *Milla Svatosova*
  - { Thérèse Soenke Hepliger (Hollande) *Thérèse Soenke Hepliger*
- Membres
- Monica Felton (Angleterre) *Monica Felton*
  - Marj'a Ovsianikova (~~URSS~~) *M. Ovsianikova*
  - Bai Lang (Chine) *白朗*
  - Li Keng (Chine) *李鏗*
  - Gilette Ziegler (France) *Gilette Ziegler*
  - Elisabeth Gallo (Italie) *Elisabeth Gallo*
  - Eva Puester (Autriche) *Eva Puester*
  - Genevieve Hamevard (Belgique) *Genevieve Hamevard*
  - Hilda Cahu (Rép. Dém. all. de) *Hilda Cahu*
  - Lilly Wachter (Allemagne de l'Ouest) *Lilly Wachter*
  - Li Thi Que (Viet Nam) *Li Thi Que*
  - Candelaria Rodriguez (Cuba) *Candelaria Rodriguez*
  - Fatma Ben Sliman (Tunisie) *Fatma Ben Sliman*
  - Abassa Fodé (Algérie) *Abassa Fodé*
  - Alicia Leonor (Argentine) *Alicia Leonor*

## THE W.I.D.F. TO THE U.N.

*The Secretariat of the W.I.D.F. has sent the report of the Commission to the President of the General Assembly, Secretariat of the U.N. and to the President of the Security Council of the U.N. and the following letter:*

Berlin, June 11, 1951

Sir,

*The Council of the Women's International Democratic Federation decided at its last meeting held in Berlin from February 1st to 5th, 1951, to send an International Commission of Women to Korea, in order to investigate, on the spot, the ravages caused by American bombardments and the massacres of the civilian population, especially of women and children.*

*The Commission was composed of representatives from 17 countries of Europe, America, Africa and Asia who, after an investigation which lasted 12 days, presented the Women's International Democratic Federation with the document intitled: "Report of the Women's International Commission for the investigation of atrocities committed by U.S.A. and Syngman Rhee troops in Korea". We have the honour to bring it to your attention.*

*On behalf of the 91 million women united in the Women's International Democratic Federation, we urgently request that this report be examined by various departments of U.N.O. and further urge that your decisions be in accordance with the conclusions drawn by the Commission.*

*The Women's International Democratic Federation demands that those who are responsible for the crimes committed the Korean people be charged as "war criminals" as stipulated in the Allied Declaration of 1943, and tried by the peoples as stated in the said Declaration.*

*In order to put an end to these atrocities, the Women's International Democratic Federation demands that the U.N.O.:*

- 1) Stop immediately the bombing of the Korean towns, villages and civilians;*
- 2) Arrive at a peaceful settlement of the Korean problem and order the withdrawal all of foreign troops from Korea;*
- 3) Grant self-determination for the Korean people and the right to settle their own affairs.*

*The Women's International Democratic Federation requests the publication of this report in official U.N.O. documents and its distribution to all delegations of the countries represented at U.N.O.*

Yours very truly,

Eugénie COTTON,

President, Women's International Democratic Federation.



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION  
Berlin W 8, Unter den Linden 13  
Printed in Germany